

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

List of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A car for expanding a fixed conveyor belt, comprising:

a frame provided at an end of said conveyor belt;

a plurality of wheels connected to the frame;

a plurality of conveyor supports mounted in a plane on said frame for carrying a conveyor belt; and

an extendible member attached to said frame and carrying at least one of said conveyor supports thereon which selectively extends in the longitudinal direction of the conveyor to extend the conveyor length.

2. (Original) The car according to claim 1, wherein the extendible member is a central shaft.

3. (Currently Amended) The car according to claim 1, wherein the extendible member has an extended length ~~roughly~~ approximately twice the unextended length.

4. (Original) The car according to claim 1, wherein the frame is approximately half the length of the car in an unextended state.

5. (Currently Amended) The car according to claim 1, wherein the frame is approximately the full length of the car in an unextended state.

6. (Original) The car according to claim 1, wherein the extending member includes two sections each having an extending portion.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of extending a conveyor belt, comprising:

providing a plurality of conveyor belt supports in a plane for carrying said conveyor belt;

providing at least one car for carrying at least one of said conveyor supports;

separating said conveyor belt at at least one location;

extending a portion of said car and said at least one conveyor support in the longitudinal direction of said conveyor; and

adding additional length to said conveyor belt equivalent to the length of extension of said car.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of extending a conveyor belt, comprising:

providing a plurality of conveyor belt supports in a plane for carrying said conveyor belt;

providing at least one car for carrying at least one of said conveyor supports;

extending a portion of said car and said at least one conveyor support in the longitudinal direction of said conveyor; and

adding additional length to said conveyor belt equivalent to the length of extension of said car from a belt storage unit.

9. (Currently Amended) A conveyor system having a variable length comprising:

a plurality of fixed supports;

at least one car provided at an end of said fixed supports having at least one movable support;

a conveyor belt extending across and being carried by said fixed and movable conveyor supports;

said at least one car having a wheeled framework for supporting said movable conveyor support and an extendible portion

mounted on said wheeled framework for moving said movable conveyor support in the longitudinal direction of said conveyor belt in order to lengthen the conveyor system.

10. (Original) A system according to claim 9, wherein a plurality of cars are included in said system.

11. (Original) A system according to claim 9, wherein the extendible portion includes a hollow main shaft and an extending shaft of smaller diameter mounted within said main shaft and wherein said extension shaft is removed from inside said main shaft in order to extend the length of the conveyor belt.

12. (Original) The system according to claim 11, further comprising a power source mounted on said car for moving said extension shaft.

13. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 9, wherein said extendible member ~~is pivoted~~ pivots to allow the movable conveyor supports to move in a vertical plane to adjust the height of the conveyor belt.

14. (WITHDRAWN) A wheel assembly for a car in a conveyor belt system, comprising:

a wheel attached to said car;

an elevating assembly for adjusting the relative positions of said wheel and said car to cause said car to be elevated;

a rotating assembly connected between said wheel and said car for allowing said wheel to be rotated about a vertical axis so as to allow said car to be moved in a different direction.

15. (WITHDRAWN) The wheel assembly according to claim 14, further comprising a locking arrangement for holding said rotation arrangement at a set position.

16. (WITHDRAWN) The wheel assembly according to claim 14, wherein the elevating assembly includes a hydraulic cylinder.

17. (WITHDRAWN) The wheel assembly according to claim 14, wherein said rotational assembly includes a vertically oriented shaft fixedly connected to said car and a rotating hollow cylindrical shaft mounted there around for rotating said wheel.

18. (WITHDRAWN) A low profile conveyor system comprising:  
a framework located near the ground;  
a plurality of dollies mounted on said framework for movement thereon;  
a plurality of first conveyor supports mounted on said dollies;  
a plurality of second conveyor supports mounted on a structure other than said dollies;  
a conveyor belt being placed on said first and said second conveyor supports; and  
a conveyor drive for causing said belt to move;  
said framework being mounted below said structure and being movable in relation therewith so as to extend the length of said conveyor belt.

19. (WITHDRAWN) The conveyor according to claim 18, wherein the structure includes cars having conveyor supports on an extendible section for extending the length of the conveyor belt.

20. (WITHDRAWN) The low profile conveyor according to claim 19, wherein the extendible portion of said cars is attached to at least one of said dollies to adjust the position of said dolly on said framework.

21. (Currently Amended) A low profile conveyor system comprising:

a framework ~~near~~ mounted on the ground;

a plurality of conveyor supports mounted on said framework for carrying a conveyor belt to form a first conveyor; and

an elevating section for increasing the height of the conveyor belt from the frame the elevating section being movable upon said framework;

wherein said first conveyor operates in conjunction with a separate second conveyor and is mounted below said second conveyor so as to be movable in the longitudinal direction relative to the second conveyor to extend said conveyor system and wherein said elevating section moves products from said second conveyor onto said first conveyor.

22. (Original) The low profile conveyor system according to claim 21, wherein the elevating portion remains fixed in position when said framework extends longitudinally to extend the conveyor.

23. (Original) The low profile conveyor system according to claim 22, wherein jacks are provided at said elevating portion positions to prevent movement thereof.

24. (Original) The low profile conveyor system according to claim 21, wherein the second conveyor includes at least one extendible car.

25. (Original) The low profile conveyor system according to claim 21, wherein the second conveyor is a main conveyor belt having a fixed portion and at least one extendible car where the first conveyor extends below the car so that the car may be extended in addition to the extension of the system by moving the low profile conveyor longitudinally.

26. (Original) The low profile conveyor system according to claim 21, wherein said second conveyor is horizontally displaced but parallel to said low profile conveyor.

27. (Currently Amended) A method for extending a conveyor belt, comprising:

providing a first conveyor belt;

providing a second conveyor belt ~~having a low profile~~ which is lower than said first conveyor belt;

placing said second conveyor belt below said first conveyor belt so as to be parallel therewith;

longitudinally moving said second conveyor belt from beneath said first conveyor belt in order to extend a total belt length;

wherein the said second conveyor belt includes an elevating portion for increasing the height of the second conveyor belt so as to move products from said second conveyor belt onto said first conveyor.

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30. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~29~~, 27, wherein said elevating portion is movable along a framework of said second conveyor belt.

31. (Original) The method according to claim 27, wherein said first conveyor belt is extendible by including an extendible car having an extendible portion therewith.

32. (WITHDRAWN) A conveyor system for spreading material in a pile, comprising:

a main belt;

a low profile belt operating in conjunction with said main belt; and

said low profile belt extending below said main belt so as to be extendible therefrom to move material to different locations.

33. (WITHDRAWN) The conveyor system according to claim 32, wherein the main conveyor belt includes extendible cars for extending the main conveyor belt.

34. (WITHDRAWN) The conveyor belt system according to claim 32, wherein the belt carries refuse from a mine onto a refuse pile.

35. (NEW) A low profile conveyor system comprising:

a framework mounted on the ground;

a plurality of conveyor supports mounted on said framework for carrying a conveyor belt to form a first conveyor; and

an elevating section for increasing the height of the conveyor belt from the frame, the elevating section being movable upon said framework;

wherein said first conveyor operates in conjunction with a separate second conveyor and extends at an angle to said first conveyor and wherein said elevating section moves products from said second conveyor onto said first conveyor.